

September 16, 2004

Chief, Policy and Compliance Division

Transmittal # 77 CHAMPVA Policy Manual

**PUBLICATIONS AND TRANSMITTAL CHANGE
FOR THE CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL (PM)**

1. Explanation of the changes and related index updates to the CHAMPVA PM are in the following summary.
2. This transmittal memorandum should be posted in the front of your CHAMPVA PM. The old/revised policies should be removed from your CHAMPVA PM and the new policy inserted.

Chapter 1, Section 2.2, SPONSOR.

- Under Exclusions adds that a veteran (sponsor) who is a fugitive felon no longer qualifies as a CHAMPVA sponsor and that medical benefits for dependents will be suspended during this period.

Chapter 1, Section 2.3, BENEFICIARY.

- Under Exclusions adds that if a beneficiary's veteran sponsor is a fugitive felon, the beneficiary is not entitled to CHAMPVA benefits and their coverage will be suspended during this period; and that a beneficiary who is a fugitive felon is not entitled to CHAMPVA benefits.

Chapter 1, Section 2.5, CHILD.

- Under Policy Considerations adds criteria for reinstatement of benefits for a helpless child.

Chapter 1, Section 2.6, MEDICARE.

- Under Policy Considerations corrects the Social Security Administration's toll-free number to read (800) 772-1213.

Chapter 1, Section 4.2, MEDS BY MAIL (MbM).

- Under Policy adds that effective October 1, 2004, the CHAMPVA MbM Program will have a second Servicing Center.

Chapter 2, Section 3.2, COLORECTAL CANCER.

- Amends the Procedure Codes.

Chapter 2, Section 10.2, *EYE AND OCULAR ADNEXA.*

- Amends the Procedure Codes.
- Under Policy Considerations adds coverage for: phototherapeutic keratectomy (PTK); strabismus; corneal transplants (keratoplasty); tranpupillary thermotherapy for the treatment of retinoblastoma; and keratoprosthesis.
- Under Exclusions adds eyeglasses and contact lenses (except as noted within Chapter 2 Section 10.4, *Lenses (Intraocular or Contact) and Eye Glasses*); orthokeratology; orthoptics, also known as visual training, vision therapy, eye exercises, eye therapy; and epikeratophakia for treatment of aphakia and myopia.

Chapter 2, Section 10.9, *REFRACTIVE KERATOPLASTY.*

- Under Description removes conductive keratoplasty and keratophakia.
- Under Exclusions adds clarification to the listing of refractive keratoplasty procedures (i.e., conductive keratoplasty, and keratophakia).

Chapter 2, Section 15.7, *CONSULTATIONS.*

- Amends the Procedure Codes.

Chapter 2, Section 16.5, *EXPERIMENTAL/INVESTIGATIONAL (UNPROVEN) PROCEDURES.*

- Under Policy Considerations removes dorsal root entry zone (DREZ) and vertebral axial decompression from the partial list of experimental/investigational (unproven) devices, medical treatments, or procedures of excluded benefits as they are more appropriately referenced in Chapter 2, Section 20.1, *Nervous System* and Chapter 2, Section 30.1, *Physical Medicine/Therapy*; and adds oncotype DX™ breast cancer assay to the listing.

Chapter 2, Section 29.8, *LASER SURGERY.*

- Under Exclusions adds explanation of the acronyms transmyocardial revascularization (TMR) and percutaneous myocardial revascularization (PTMR) for angina.

Chapter 3, Section 4.1, *OTHER HEALTH INSURANCE (OHI).*

- Under Definitions clarifies that Medicare is considered as other health insurance.
- Under Policy clarifies that if an OHI denies payment for medical necessity or if the beneficiary goes outside their insurance carrier providers, CHAMPVA will also deny the claim;
- Clarifies that the beneficiary may appeal the coverage decision to their other health insurance (not CHAMPVA) and if the other health insurance reverses

the denial, CHAMPVA will then process the claim as secondary payer providing it is a covered benefit.

- CHAMPVA will become primary payer if the other health insurance certifies in writing that the service is not a covered service under their plan and that service is covered under CHAMPVA.

Chapter 3, Section 5.11, PHARMACY REIMBURSEMENT.

- Under Policy removes reference to the Cheyenne, WY. VA Medical Center.

Chapter 3, Section 7.1, AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER (ASC) REIMBURSEMENT (ADENDUM 1).

- Adds covered ambulatory surgery procedures.

Code Index. Amends index to add and delete codes referenced in this transmittal.

Subject Index. Amends index to add and delete changes referenced in this transmittal.

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